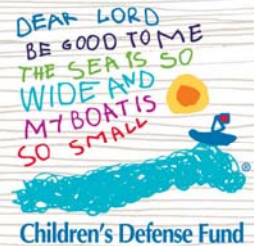


Children's Defense Fund

Health Coverage for All Children: Washington

October 2009



All Children Need Health Coverage that is Affordable, Comprehensive, and Simple.

Health Coverage for Washington's Children:

- 116,000 children are uninsured (7.1% of all children). *
- 645,463 children are enrolled in Medicaid. **
- 16,831 children are enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). ***

How affordable is health coverage for Washington's children? †

- CHIP eligibility is 300 percent of poverty (\$66,150 for a family of four).
- Full-cost CHIP buy-in for children with a family income above 300 percent of poverty.
- Medicaid eligibility is 200 percent of poverty (\$44,100) for children.

How simple are enrollment procedures in CHIP and Medicaid for Washington's children?

- Simplification procedures:
 - 12-month continuous eligibility for children
 - No face-to-face interview
 - Joint application
 - No asset test
 - Express lane eligibility provisions
- Barriers that remain:
 - 4-month waiting period
 - No presumptive eligibility—which forces children to wait until their application is processed before they can see a doctor
 - No administrative verification of income—the state requires parents to provide proof of income before a child can get health coverage

Do children in Washington CHIP program receive the same comprehensive benefits as children in Medicaid?

- Yes. Washington provides children in its CHIP program the same comprehensive health and mental health coverage (through the Early and Periodic Screening Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit) that all children in Medicaid receive.

Despite difficult economic times, Washington was one of 23 states that took steps to improve health coverage for children in the last year. In 2009, Washington expanded CHIP eligibility from 250 to 300 percent of poverty and passed legislation that includes express lane eligibility, administrative renewal, and program retention improvements. ‡

Call your Member of Congress and tell them: *Health reform needs to make sure that ALL children in Washington and America have health coverage that is affordable, comprehensive, and simple. A pound sign (#) designates Members who serve on one or more of the committees that developed the health reform bills being considered in the House and Senate.*

Senator Patty Murray (D) #

Washington DC: (202) 224-2621
Seattle Office: (206) 553-5545
Everett Office: (425) 259-6515
Spokane Office: (509) 624-9515
Vancouver Office: (360) 696-7797
Tacoma Office: (253) 572-3636
Yakima Office: (509) 453-7462
Bellevue Office: (425) 462-4460

Representative Brian Baird (D)

Washington DC: (202) 225-3536
Vancouver Office: (360) 695-6292
Olympia Office: (360) 695-6292

Representative Doc Hastings (R)

Washington DC: (202) 225-5816
Pasco Office: (509) 543-9396
Yakima Office: (509) 452-3243

Representative Rick Larsen (D)

Washington DC: (202) 225-2605
Bellingham Office: (360) 733-4500
Everett Office: (425) 252-3188

Senator Maria Cantwell (D) #

Washington DC: (202) 224-3441
Toll-Free: 1-888-648-7328
Seattle Office: (206) 220-6400
Spokane Office: (509) 343-2507
Vancouver Office: (360) 396-7838
Central WA: (509) 946-8106
Tacoma Office: (253) 572-2281
Everett Office: (425) 303-0114

Representative Norman Dicks (D)

Washington DC: (202) 225-5916
Bremerton Office: (360) 479-4011
Tacoma Office: (253) 593-6536
Port Angeles: (360) 452-3370

Representative Jay Inslee (D) #

Washington DC: (202) 225-6311
Shoreline Office: (206) 361-0233
Poulsbo Office: (360) 598-2342

Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R) #

Washington DC: (202) 225-7761
Colville Office: (509) 684-3481
Spokane Office: (509) 353-2374
Walla Walla Office: (509) 529-9358

Representative David Reichert (R) #

Washington DC: (202) 225-7761
Mercer Island Office: (206) 275-3438

Representative Adam Smith (D)

Washington DC: (202) 225-8901
Tacoma Office: (253) 593-6600

Representative Jim McDermott (D) #

Washington DC: (202) 225-3106
Seattle Office: (206) 533-7170

* U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey, 2007, 2008, and 2009 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC); and U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, "State Single Year of Age and Sex Population Estimates: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2008 - RESIDENT," at <<http://www.census.gov/popest/states/asrh/files/SC-EST2008-AGESEX-RES.csv>> . Calculations by Children's Defense Fund.

** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, FY2006 Medicaid Statistical Information System, at <http://msis.cms.hhs.gov/>, accessed June 5, 2009. Calculations by Children's Defense Fund.

*** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, SCHIP Statistical Enrollment Data System, January 20, 2009, at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalCHIPPolicy/downloads/FY2008StateTotalTable012309FINAL.pdf>, accessed June 2, 2009. Calculations by Children's Defense Fund.

† Georgetown Center for Children and Families; "State Snapshot—Medicaid and CHIP Eligibility Levels and Enrollment and Renewal Procedures." <http://ccf.georgetown.edu/index/cms-file-system-action?file=statistics/snapshot.pdf>, accessed October 12, 2009.

‡ Georgetown Center for Children and Families; "Weathering the Storm: States Move Forward on Child and Family Health Coverage Despite Tough Economic Climate." September 2009. [http://ccf.georgetown.edu/index/cms-file-system-action?file=ccf publications/health reform/weathering the storm.pdf](http://ccf.georgetown.edu/index/cms-file-system-action?file=ccf%20publications/health%20reform/weathering%20the%20storm.pdf), accessed October 1, 2009.